

A VIEW  
OF THE  
**Perkinean Electricity,**  
OR,  
AN INQUIRY INTO THE INFLUENCE  
OF  
METALLIC TRACTORS,  
FOUNDED ON A  
NEWLY-DISCOVERED

*PRINCIPLE in NATURE,*  
And employed as a Remedy in many *painful Inflammatory Diseases,* as

RHEUMATISM,	PLEURISY,
GOUT,	TUMEFACCTIONS,
QUINSY,	SCALDS, BURNS,

*And a Variety of other topical Complaints :*

WITH

**A Review**

Of Mr. PERKINS's late Pamphlet on the Subject ;

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

**AN APPENDIX,**

Containing a Variety of Experiments, made in *London, Bath, Bristol, &c.* with a view of ascertaining the efficacy of this Practice.

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By CHARLES CUNNINGHAM LANGWORTHY, Surgeon,  
OF BATH.

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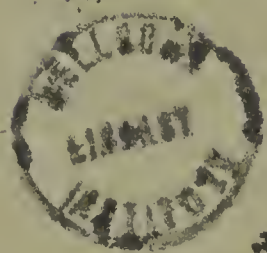
Oppose no principle, because 'tis *new*,  
But first examine if the thing be TRUE :  
Up to its source each novel science trace,  
If false, reject it, but if true, *embrace*.

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**Bristol :**

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And sold by BULGIN and SHEPPARD ; also by JOHNSON,  
St. Paul's Church-Yard, London ; and CRUTTWELL, Bath.

1798.



## To the Reader.

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*THE* recent death of a dear and affectionate Brother, to attend on whom, during his sickness, was my first inducement for continuing at Bristol, together with other circumstances, which have occurred since the following sheets were printed off, have determined me to fix my residence at Bath.

Having more than once, in the subsequent pages, mentioned my intention of residing at Bristol, this information becomes necessary to the reader.

At Bath I shall devote my time and attention to the *Metallic Practice*, and on the same terms as I had proposed when at Bristol.

Mr. Perkins having engaged to furnish me regularly with his *Tractors*, I shall be enabled to supply any applicants who may be disposed to keep them in their families; they also may be had of Mrs. Langworthy, Dowry Square, Bristol Hotwells.

The price of them, as sold by Mr. Perkins in London, is Five Guineas per Set.

The place of my residence may be known by inquiring at the Pump-Room.

CHARLES C. LANGWORTHY.

Bath, September, 1798.



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## *Perkinean Electricity, &c.*

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THE SCIENCE, to which the appellation of *Perkinean Electricity* has been given, is a method of curing a variety of topical diseases, by drawing over the parts affected, certain pieces of pointed metals, which Dr. Perkins, of North America, sometime since, discovered to possess an influence on the human frame, the effects of which are so extraordinary, that the public cannot be called upon to credit them, without being invited to the proofs.

This discovery (like all those which interfere with established prejudices) on its first annunciation, was treated as mere quackery, and its author considered by the generality of professional men, to whom his character was unknown, as a maniac or an impostor. Convinced however



of its reality and efficacy, he persevered in his practice unawed, and soon placed its reputation above the ridicule of the incredulous and the abuse of the envious.

Mr. BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, a son of the Discoveror, and who assisted him in extending the practice over the United States, crossed the Atlantic in the spring of the present year, for the purpose of its establishment in England; and, having myself made a voyage to America and contracted an intimacy with Mr. Perkins, I returned to my native country in his company.

Having received a regular surgical education, and intending to settle in the profession in some part of England, Mr. Perkins (who confines himself to London\*) solicited me to combine his practice with my own. The cures I had witnessed during my residence in America, and the successful experiments I had made in London after my return, determined me to comply with his solicitation; and circumstances, not necessary to mention, having induced me to settle at Bristol, I take this method of announcing that determination.

When

\* He resides in Leicester-Square, No. 18.

When first I connected myself with Mr. Perkins, the history of the oppositions which every discovery in natural philosophy, and in the healing art in particular, has ever had to encounter from prejudice and ignorance, afforded me ample proof, that wherever I might commence my practice, it would meet with discouragement from a certain description of professional men; and that I should have difficulties both moral and physical to contend with, which *Time* only, by enabling *Truth* to assert its superiority over *Falsehood*, could overcome. And it has proved as I expected; for, although I have hitherto had little opportunity of promulgating the practice or of procuring patients, some dogmatical pharmacopolists are already launching against me the arrows of traduction, and others, I am informed, who apprehend that their craft will be affected by the discovery, have their quivers full and their bows bent to attack me when time shall serve.

Others I have found (men of learning, talents and liberality) whose thirst after TRUTH in general, and whose desire to ascertain the foundation of the pretensions in question, have induced them

them to take much trouble to procure me fit subjects, and even to recommend their patients to my practice.

To *these* I offer my grateful thanks, as a tribute justly due to their candor and magnanimity of mind.

Having premised thus much, I shall proceed to state the complaints in which the practice has been found beneficial by the experiments of Dr. Perkins and many other Physicians and natural Experimentalists of the United States; and add a few of the cases in which Mr. Perkins and myself have succeeded in England.

Among the former, are  
 Chronic and Inflammatory Rheumatisms,  
 Inflammatory Gout,  
 Quinsy and Inflammatory swellings of the Throat,  
 Inflammation of the Eyes,  
 Ringworms, Tetters, Whitlows, and Erysipelas,  
 Boils and Phlegmonic Inflammations,  
 Pains, tumefaction and inflammation produced  
 by the *stings of poisonous insects*.

Tumefaction



Tumefaction and Inflammation produced by *contusion*,

Scalds and Burns,

Spasmodic Affections,

Epileptic Fits,

Rickets,

Sprains in the Limbs,

Nervous Fevers,

Pleurisy,

Tooth-Ache,

Nervous Head-Ache,

Locked-jaw,

Pains in the Breast, Back, Ears, &c. (*a.*)

These

(*a.*) The experiments by which the efficacy of this practice, in the diseases above enumerated, has been ascertained, were made by some of the most eminent physicians, and natural and experimentalists of the United States; and may be seen at length in a pamphlet entitled, "The Influence of Metallic Tractors on the Human Body, by B. D. Perkins, A. M." published by Johnson, London, and sold by Bulgin and Sheppard, Bristol; and Cruttwell, Bath.

I have been informed, that some of the persons, to whom I have before adverted, have even ventured to assert, that these experiments are not authentic; but have been fabricated in London by Mr. Perkins, for the purpose of delusion.

Mr.

These are the diseases in which the Perkinian operation has been found beneficial in America, and I shall now shortly notice such as have fallen within the practice of Mr. Perkins and myself since our arrival in England.

During my residence in London, after my return from America, we succeeded in the cure of chronic and inflammatory Rheumatisms almost without number, and some of the former of several years duration.

Mr. Perkins afforded perfect relief to a Lady who had for three years been afflicted with a violent

Mr. Perkins is known to be a man of honor and integrity. In his own country, he associated with men of letters and science, and brought with him recommendations which, added to his own manners and conduct, have secured him a similar society in England. He is just as incapable of such an artifice as his calumniators are of acknowledging the truth, when that truth opposes their interest.

Most of the experiments he has printed, have been published in the American newspapers, which are regularly sent to various parts of England. I have in my possession an American pamphlet from which they were copied, and many of the M. S. communications, are in the hands of Mr. Perkins in London.

violent pain in the side and back, supposed by the gentlemen of the faculty who attended her, *to proceed from a disease of the liver*, and I was successful in two cases of Quinsy and some Inflammations in the Eyes, several cases of Inflammatory Gout, and some of tumefaction and inflammation from contusion.

At Bath, during a short stay there, I removed an inflammatory gout in the foot, a chronic rheumatism in the jaws and neck; and accidentally gave relief to a Clergyman about eight and twenty years of age, in a

## CASE OF HÉMIPLÉGIA,

*By an effect so singular and unexpected, that I shall state it at length.*

This gentleman about three years ago suddenly lost his speech, and the use of his right arm, side, thigh, and leg.

It was early in the night that he was thus attacked, and while in bed, from which he was  
unable

unable to remove. He however contrived to ring the bell, and procure assistance. A physician was called in who administered medicine. By the morning he partly recovered his speech; but the whole of his right side remained useless, unattended with pain. A few days afterwards, violent pains came on in the muscles of the back, but without giving any relief to the torpidity of the limbs. These continued for a considerable time and then subsided; thus he remained nearly three years, with his speech imperfect, his right arm, side, thigh, and leg so useless, that he could neither turn in his bed, dress, undress himself, or walk without assistance, and his back subject to alternate pain and ease. He had resorted for relief to the various watering places, and to Physicians residing near them, and was at this time at Bath, with a similar view. Having read Mr. Perkins's pamphlet, and heard that I had recently cured a severe Rheumatism by virtue of the Tractors, he applied to me.

He was, at this period, as to his limbs and right side in the situation I have, described, and had violent pains in the dorsal muscles and the lower  
regions



regions of the back, but unattended with inflammation or tumefaction. I told him that it was *possible* my operating on his back might give him ease, but that I had no hope of producing any beneficial effects on his limbs, which appeared to be suffering under Palsy, a case in which the Perkinian operation had never succeeded in America. He was then under the care of Mr. Horton, an Apothecary of high reputation and extensive practice, who had attended him for about three months without affording him any relief. I did not at that time express any desire to try the effects of the Tractors, and left him without any experiment.

The next day he sent for me again, he was now in bed, and the pains in his back were more violent than usual. This determined him to try the Tractors.

The seat of the pain was the oblique muscles of his back, on both sides the dorsi and lumbar vertebræ.

I began the operation on the right side of the lumbar vertebræ, by drawing the instruments  
from



from the latissimus dorsi, down the glutæi and the course of the sartorius and the femoral nerves, which I continued for about ten minutes; when he declared himself much easier. After my continuing the operation about five minutes longer, he said he was perfectly at ease; and, to *my* astonishment as well as *his own*, he could contract and extend his right thigh and leg, with great facility. He got out of bed and walked about the room without the assistance even of a staff; and could also make use of his right arm. This was about twelve o'clock at noon. The next day at the same hour I visited him again. He still retained the use of his limbs, and had experienced no return of pain. I repeated my operation, beginning as high up the back as the trapezius, and continuing it down the course I had before taken, to the vastus internus.

The skin of his back assumed a redness, a warm glow took place in his thigh and leg, and his speech was perceptibly better. He got up and, instead of being as usual wheeled in a chair, to the amazement of his friends, walked to the pump-room. He considered himself cured, and was so  
much

much elated at the idea that he went to the Theatre : at the conclusion of the play it rained, and being unable to procure a sedan, he walked to his lodgings at the Lamb Inn.

This unfortunate circumstance renewed the pains in his back as violently as ever. I operated on him again and after a few minutes his back appeared much inflamed, and in less than a quarter of an hour he was restored to perfect ease.

I repeated my operations every day for about a fortnight, during which time he gained strength rapidly, his speech daily improved, his palsied limbs reassumed their natural warmth, and every operation produced a general glow over his whole body.

At this period, the illness of a relation at Clifton called me thither, and about a fortnight ago (which was nearly six weeks after I left Bath) the Clergyman called on me, and was (to use his own expression) "*quite a new man.*"

He spent the afternoon with me, drank plentifully of wine, and conversed freely, by which I perceived

perceived that his speech, though still defective, was abundantly improved. We walked to the York Hotel where we supped, and from thence to Sion House where he slept, and he neither used my arm nor a staff, but walked unassisted with much ease. (*a.*)

During

(*a.*) The first attack which this gentleman experienced, had certainly all the appearance of an Hemiplegia, or what is commonly called a "paralytic stroke of half the body." It had been so considered by all the medical men he had consulted; and it presented itself to me in a similar point of view. Many experiments have been made on palsy, by Dr. Perkins and several other Physicians in America, who have adopted his practice, none of which were attended with success; and the unexpected effects produced by me in this case, have given rise to various speculations in my mind, some of which, with all the deference due from so young a man, to the superior talents, learning, and experience of older and abler practitioners, I shall presume slightly to notice.

Palsy has been considered by some as merely a diminution of nervous energy, and by others as not a mere diminution of this energy, but the result of some orgasm, some violent concussion and injury of the nerves and muscles themselves, by which they are rendered insusceptible of receiving and retaining this energy. If the former presumption be true, the deficiency of nervous influence in the paralytic limbs, might be supplied by the Perkinian Operation, either through the hands of the operator, or by conducting it from the sound part of the body along the course of the nerves, leading to the part affected: or an equilibrium might

be



During a week's residence at Clifton, I have made several successful experiments in chronic and inflammatory Rheumatisms, and inflammatory Sore Throats, and have given much relief in a case of much more important nature, which being new in the Perkinian practice, and a happy discovery in the healing art, I shall give pretty much at length. It is no less than

AN

be restored by the surrounding atmosphere, which is considered to be pervaded by this influence (*a.*) and from whence it is acquired by the nervous system. Were the former presumption true, I then say palsy might be cured by one, or some, or all of these means, as seems to have taken place in the case which I have just stated. But should the latter presumption be the just one, neither of these means can be expected speedily to produce any beneficial effects; for the nerves must be restored to their natural or original sanity, before they can retain the influence necessary to health, however that influence may be communicated.

Presuming this latter to be the true theory of palsy, it cannot be expected, nor is it pretended, that the Perkinian Operation can give relief, in general, to persons afflicted with this melancholy disease; and the experiments of Dr. Perkins, and others in America, have manifested that no such relief can be given in that country. Query then, whence the beneficial effects produced in the case of the Clergyman?

(*a.*) See page 21 and the Appendix.

AN ARREST AND CURE  
OF A  
*MORTIFICATION or GANGRENE,*

In one of the Extremities.

A Lady about fourteen years ago, dislocated her ankle, and a reduction was neglected; it however recovered its strength sufficiently to enable her to walk. About six months ago, a violent inflammation and tumefaction of the ankle (which she supposed to be the consequence of taking cold) attended with much pain, came on, and continued

Clergyman? Does the variation of climate in this country and in that, make a difference in the disease, or in the *modus operandi* of the Tractors? (*a.*)

Was

(*a.*) It has been clearly ascertained by Dr. Perkins, that his operation succeeds much better and more rapidly in winter than in summer. In the former season, violent inflammatory Rheumatisms are cured, or much abated, in the course of ten minutes or a quarter of an hour. In the latter season, it is necessary to continue the operation considerably longer to produce any beneficial effects. In either season, perspiration on the hand of the operator, or any oily substance on the seat of pain, completely prevents all beneficial effects, and the instruments succeed better in the hands of some operators, than in those of others, in proportion perhaps, as such operators are more or less impregnated with electricity.



tinued from that period to the time when I first saw her. The hot-waters of Bath, sea-bathing, and every application which many ingenious

C

surgeons

Was the Rheumatism in the back (produced according to the Perkinian Theory, by a superabundance of nervous influence there collected) and the conducting of that superabundance along the course of the nerves into the paralytic limbs, and thus restoring an equilibrium, the cause of the cure? And if so, might not beneficial effects be produced in this disease, by artificially collecting that influence in sound parts of the body, by application of cantharides, caustics, or other stimulants, and conducting it from thence into the paralytic limbs, and thus restoring the deficiency of that influence in these parts? (a.)

There are other topical diseases arising perhaps from an orgasm of the nerves, in which the metallic operation produces no beneficial effects. Of these, pains in the joints and muscles, *attendant upon motion only*, are the most prominent.

A case of this sort presented itself a few days ago,—A man who when at rest was perfectly at ease, was on the slightest motion of the joints of his knees and muscles of his legs, afflicted with very violent pains in those parts, (unattended with inflammation or tumefaction) which again subsided on the instant of cessation from motion.

(a.) After the above was in the press, Mr. Andrews (for that is the Clergyman's name) with a benevolence that does him honor, gave me permission to make this public use of his name, and he purposed to submit to the experiments I have here suggested.

I operated

surgeons and physicians could suggest, had been resorted to in vain; and a black spot, assuming all the symptoms of mortification, or gangrene, made its appearance on the inside of the foot. It rapidly increased to a size larger than that of a crown piece, and she had it in contemplation to submit to an amputation, to which she had been advised; when an eminent surgeon from Ireland who visited her, and with whom I was acquainted, advised her to try my practice. She consented. I applied the Tractors to her ankle, which was so inflamed that she could scarcely bear their slightest touch, but which received ease from them in a few minutes. The next day I repeated the application, the tumefaction and inflammation abated considerably, and the progress

I operated on him several days successively, and continued the operations much longer than is usually necessary to give ease in inflammatory or chronic Rheumatisms, without being able to afford him the smallest relief.

In these cases, as well as in palsy, there are, perhaps, some constitutional defects in the organs, which when at rest are unperceived; but when those organs are called on to perform their functions they either entirely refuse, as in palsy, or, as in the latter case, consent with reluctance and pain.

gress of the gangrene appeared to be completely arrested. I have continued to operate on her several successive days, the inflammation is entirely removed, the tumefaction nearly so, and the morbid spot reduced to a size less than that of a six-pence. She is now able to walk about without pain, and I have no doubt but a continuance of the operation will speedily perfect a cure.

After a statement of these extraordinary effects, it may be expected that I should say something of the theory or principle upon which such effects are supposed to be produced.

Neither the numerous and curious facts which have occurred in ærial electricity, nor the modern science of Galvanism or animal electricity, have as yet enabled their pursuers to establish any satisfactory theory on their phenomena ; nor has Dr. Perkins as yet published any theory upon which the effects produced by his discovery may be accounted for. Various speculations however of other men of science, have fallen under my observation, and I shall briefly notice the most prevailing.



It had long been suspected by speculative philosophers, that the bodies of animals possessed a fluid analagous to Electricity, and the discovery of Professor Galvani, and the experiments of Dr. Valli, Dr. Fowler, and other pursuers of the Galvanic science, seem to have ascertained that an influence pervades the animal œconomy, which, though not perfectly analagous to Electricity, yet approaches it in many instances, and may be considered as a modification of that influence. To this influence these experimentalists, discovering it as they believed, to differ from Electricity, and knowing not what else to denominate it, have given the name of Galvanism, or the Galvanic Influence, in honor of the discoverer.

Dr. Vaughan, of Delaware, in North America, has published a dissertation on this influence, which he read some time ago to the Delaware Medical Society, and on this principle he accounts for the beneficial effects of the Tractors.

Sensation as he conceives, is dependant on this influence thus pervading the system, (call it electricity as I have said before, the nervous fluid, the  
Galvanic

Galvanic fluid, or what you will) and that a pleasurable sensation is the natural degree of that influence, consequently that pain, or supersensation, tumefaction, inflammation, &c. are occasioned by *an extra degree or superabundance of it collected in the part affected.*

“ On this principle (says he) the problem  
 “ (meaning the effects of the Tractors) admits of  
 “ an easy solution, namely, that the metals being  
 “ susceptible of attracting this fluid, conduct the  
 “ extra degree of energy from the part affected,  
 “ to parts where it is diminished, or out of the  
 “ system altogether; restoring the native law of  
 “ equilibrium, and thus curing the disease.” And  
 upon this theory it is, that the instruments with  
 which this effect is produced, are denominated  
 “ TRACTORS.”

And as Dr. Perkins first discovered the powers possessed by these instruments, of attracting this (electric or Galvanic) influence, the science, in honor to his name, has been denominated “ PERKINEAN” ELECTRICITY. (a.)

C 3

I address

(a.) It is not necessary to my present purpose to enter upon the propriety of giving these names to the instruments,

or



I address this narrative to the public, and have of course chosen to write it in a popular way without applying the technical language of the profession, where it was possible to avoid it. It is not to display *myself* that I write, but in the language of simplicity to convey my subject “home to the business and bosoms” of the illiterate and the afflicted, as well to those of the philanthropist, the philosopher, and the physician.

I believe a new discovery in the œconomy of nature to have been made, which is as capable of being converted to a happy alleviation of human affliction, as any that has preceded it, and my most ardent, I might say, my only wish, is, that the truth or fallacy of my belief may be ascertained by others. The most effectual way of doing

or the science: or upon any inquiry into the truth or fallacy of the theory on which they are founded. I cannot help observing, however, that some phenomena, which accidentally occurred to me, a few weeks ago, in making some experiments in Galvanism, in a great measure manifested its truth. Repetitions of these experiments, and a prosecution of others which the accidents have suggested, may enable me at some future period, to establish or controvert it. These experiments I shall publish, as soon as I have time and opportunity to go through them.

ing this, that occurs to me, is the submitting my practice to the test of experiment, under the eye of persons capable of detecting the fallacy, if my pretensions are unfounded, and of confirming them, if just.

In order to this, I propose to operate on all persons afflicted with any of the diseases here enumerated, in the presence of such physicians, surgeons, or others, as may be desirous of witnessing the operation; and I thus publicly invite them to procure such patients for the purpose, as may come within their knowledge.

The numerous Hospitals, Infirmaries, Alms-Houses, and other charitable institutions, which grace the populous city of Bristol, must at all seasons, furnish fit subjects for my practice; and I will readily and willingly attend the Directors and Physicians who have the care of them, and make my experiments in their presence.

And all such poor persons as will come to me on Mondays and Tuesdays, between the hours of twelve and two o'clock, at No. 48, Prince's-street, Queen-square, Bristol; or

between the hours of five and seven in the evening of the same days, at No. 6, Sion Row, Clifton, will be relieved gratis, if their cases fall within my practice; and the doors will be open for all medical and other gentlemen, who will bring such persons, either for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of my pretensions, or gratifying their curiosity.

But while I offer proposals so convenient to the poor and necessitous, it is necessary to observe, that I expect the regular fees of my profession, from patients who may be able to pay them.

In this respect, however, I shall conform myself to moderation, and the circumstances of the applicants, as far as the charges of my education, and the expences of my undertaking and situation in life will permit.

In drawing up this manual, I am not conscious of having mistated facts, or that I could have made a more candid proposal for bringing my pretensions to a proper test. And all I can add is, that if any assemblage of medical or other gentlemen,

men, will offer a plan, more likely to obtain the end desired, I shall hold myself bound in honor and in duty, as well as inclination, to co-operate with them in any way in my power.

After witnessing the efficacy of the Perkinian operation in the cases I have stated, and after what I have here written on the subject, *my own* faith in the science cannot be doubted. But, having thus offered my pretensions to the eye of philosophy, and the test of experiment, I am *fairly* before the public; and with all the deference due to it from one of the humblest of its members, confident of its candor, I patiently await its decision.

CHARLES C. LANGWORTHY.

*Sion Row, Clifton, August, 1798.*

APPENDIX.



## APPENDIX.

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AS it may be gratifying to the curious to learn, by what incidents Dr. Perkins was lead to the discovery of the influence, which has been the subject of the preceding pages, (before I proceed to the statement of some other cases which have come under my notice) I shall lay before the reader, a review of Mr. Perkins's pamphlet, which appeared in the Bristol Mercury of the 21st of May last, in which those incidents are accurately noticed.

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“ *Perkinean Electricity, &c.* ”

In our Mercury of the 7th inst. we presented our readers with a paragraph on the curious discovery of *Professor Galvani*, of *Bologna*, of the influence of Metals on the Nerves and Muscles of Dead Animals, so as to excite the limbs to action long after they had been severed from the body; and of the still more curious and *useful* discovery of *Dr. Perkins*, of North America, of an influence of a certain composition of Metals in curing almost every topical complaint to which the human frame is incident, by merely drawing  
instruments.



instruments (by him called *Metallic Tractors*) formed of this compound, over the parts affected; and we added that we hoped we should be able, in a subsequent paper, to furnish our readers with some Extracts from a publication lately made by a Son of the Discoverer, in which an account of this discovery is detailed with a variety of experiments evincing its existence and utility.

We are sorry that the multiplicity of our advertisements, and other important matter, will not allow us to do justice to this publication; but we hope sufficient will be said to excite the curiosity of the philosopher and the anxiety of the afflicted to peruse the original, which is advertised for sale by Messrs. Bulgin and Sheppard, in this day's paper.

We shall pass the preface (which is ingenuous and candid in the extreme,) and enter at once on the body of the work.

“ Dr. Perkins, of Connecticut, in North America, for many years entertained the opinion that metals possessed an influence on the human body which had hitherto escaped the scrutinizing eye of physiologists. This opinion was the result of some phenomena, which, in the course of his extensive practice, had accidentally arrested his attention.

“ The

“ The first remarkable incident that presented itself to the notice of Dr. Perkins was the sudden contraction of a muscle, when he was performing a surgical operation.—This, he observed, took place whenever the point of the metallic substance was put in contact with the muscle. Struck with the novelty of the appearance, he was induced to try the points of wood and other substances; and no contractions taking place on these experiments, he thence inferred that the phenomena could be ascribable only to the influence of the metal.

“ About the same time he observed, that in one or two cases a cessation of pain had ensued when a knife or lancet was applied to separate the gum from a tooth, preparatory to extracting it; and in the same year he discovered that momentary ease was given in a few instances by the accidental application of a metallic instrument to inflamed and painful tumors, previous to any incision.

“ While these, and a few other cases of a similar nature, in which the perfectly tranquil state of a patient's mind, with every attending circumstance,

stance, precluded the possibility of a fallacy, were engaging his attention, the news of the late important discovery of Galvani, the celebrated Professor at Bologna, relative to the surprising effects of metals on the nerve and muscular fibre, confirmed him in his hypothesis.

“ From this period he began to turn his attention to this favorite pursuit, and sought with eagerness for subjects which might enable him to ascertain the power of metallic influence when applied to the diseases of the human body.

“ In the course of an extensive practice these were frequently found, on which he never failed to make such experiments as were calculated to accomplish his object.

“ He proceeded to make instruments of what are called the perfect metals as well as of the base ones, and likewise of various compound metals, and tried them all, sometimes with less and sometimes with more success, than he had ever hoped or expected. These experiments he continued several years; convinced from what he had already  
ready



ready noticed that he was right in his principle, and ardently hoping that further experiments and observations would enable him to apply it to the alleviation of human affliction, and the general benefit of mankind.

“ The result corroborated and indeed exceeded his most sanguine expectations ; for he discovered that, by drawing over the parts affected in particular directions certain instruments which he formed from metallic substances into certain shapes, he could remove chronic rheumatism, some gouty affections, pleurifies, inflammations in the eyes, erysipelas, and tetters ; violent spasmodic convulsions, as epileptic fits ; the locked-jaw ; the pain and swelling attending contusions ; inflammatory tumours ; the violent pain occasioned by a recent sprain ; the painful effects of a burn or scald ; pains in the head, teeth, ears, breast, side, back, and limbs ; and indeed most kinds of painful topical affections, which came under his care and observation. The instruments producing these effects are called **TRACTORS**.

“ At



“ At this period, viz. about the close of the year 1795, Dr. Perkins was chairman of the Medical Society in the county of Windham, and was its first representative in the general Medical Convention, which constituted him a Fellow of the *Connecticut Medical Society*.

“ To this Convention he soon after reported his discovery, and perhaps from its novelty, and apparent simplicity, this report was received by some with doubt and caution, and by others even with contempt. The first impression on these gentlemen was, that the operation of the *Metallic Influence* was a mere revival of *Animal Magnetism*. He was, however, requested to make a further communication at the ensuing meeting, which was to convene six months afterwards.

“ The subject at this time began to excite public attention and general curiosity. By those only who had seen or experienced the effects of the *Tractors* were they credited, while those who judged only from rumour considered the metallic operation as a renewal of *Mesmer's* treatment, and the shafts of ridicule were thrown at the discoverer,

coverer, as the reviver of his exploded practice. With these men Dr. P. was supposed to have lost his senses; and his hypothesis, which they have since honorably acknowledged to be founded on reason, and supported by experiment, was then esteemed the delusive dream of chimerical projection.

“ Shortly after the adjournment of the Medical Convention, to which I have just referred, Dr. P. influenced by the advice of his friends, and desirous of being situated in a more extensive field for exhibiting his discovery, repaired to Philadelphia. The public hospitals, alms-houses, infirmaries, and other institutions which ornament that populous city, and do honor to its inhabitants, presented excellent opportunities for making experiments on a variety of new cases, and subjecting his hypothesis to a severer test. As Congress was now in session, he performed his operations not only in the presence of the most eminent physicians, but also before the most distinguished personages of the Union. Gen. Washington, the President of the United States, convinced of the importance of the discovery, from experiments in  
his

his own family, availed himself of its advantages by purchasing a set of the Tractors for their use.

“ The Chief Justice of the United States, several of the Senators and Representatives in Congress, and other literary characters, honored the discoverer with their attendance at a great variety of his experiments, as well as the medical gentlemen of Philadelphia and its neighbourhood.

“ In the presence of such honorable and accomplished Judges, Dr. Perkins operated at the hospitals, &c. on patients afflicted with pains and inflammations in almost all their variety, and I believe to the general satisfaction and surprise of the spectators. Diseases of the most obstinate nature, which had baffled medical art, were removed by the Metallic Tractors, and many persons of an advanced age, who had been crippled for years with the chronic rheumatism, were, in several instances, perfectly cured.

“ By most of those who witnessed the surprising effects of these operations, the discovery was considered as one of the most happy and important that has ever been made for the benefit of mankind.



kind. The many stubborn and indisputable facts, which demonstrated that the operations had no similitude whatever, to Animal Magnetism, began to remove prejudices, and gain it reputation."

Mr. Perkins then goes on to detail various oppositions his father had to encounter, and enters into Mr. Mesmer's doctrine of Animal Magnetism, and the report made by the Committee (with Dr. Franklin at their head, and Mr. Levoisier, one of the Members) appointed by the late King of France to examine and report on it.

This he does with a view of combating the oppositions made to his father's discovery, by a number of medical men in America, who, it seems, without examination, or seeing a single experiment performed, had pronounced it nothing more than a miserable attempt to revive the exploded practice of Animal Magnetism.

By this review he draws very striking contrasts between the practice of Mr. Mesmer and that of his father, and shews that the effects produced by the former were not owing to any newly discovered



covered law or principle in nature, as he pretended, but solely ascribable to the influence of *compression, imitation, and imagination*; and, with respect to his father's practice, he asks, "Can the imagination cure a *gout*?—remove the spasms of an *epileptic* fit, when the patient is divested of every exercise of reason; or the contractions of a *locked jaw*?—Can imagination remove *pains* and *inflammations* of the *eyes*?—reduce *tumors*, as the *quinsy*, *biles*, and *whitlows*?—remove the severe *inflammations*, *pains*, and *tumors*, occasioned by the *stings* and *bites* of poisonous insects?—or of *burns* and *scalds*, and those on an infant?—or *inflammations* of *ring-worms*, *tetters*, and *erysipelas*?—Or can imagination cure the lameness of a brute? These are some of the afflictions which the *Traitors* generally cure.

Mr. Perkins then adverts to the proceedings of the Connecticut Medical Convention on this subject, and introduces part of an ingenious dissertation read by the President of that Society, at a general Meeting, on Galvanism and his father's discovery, which may with propriety be termed Perkinism, or (as we have taken the liberty to

denominate it) "*Perkihean Electricity*," and triumphs in the victory which his father finally obtained over his opposers.

After a variety of desultory observations, he introduces about fifty pages of experiments, made with the Tractors, by some of the most distinguished philosophers, physicians, and divines of North America, the success of which almost staggers belief.

The first is an experiment communicated by Mr. Meigs, Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Newhaven, North America, by which it appears that his son, who was attacked by "a complaint of the *peripneumonic* kind, attended with a violent pain in the left side, accompanied with a high fever and a severe cough, and who had been considered in great hazard by Dr. Munson, his physician, was *perfectly cured by the application of the Tractors in a few minutes.*"

Mr. Woodward, Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Dartmouth, North America,

America, communicates several cures effected by him ; among which are, a violent pain in the foot, proceeding from a sprain ; and a cuticular disease common in North America, called there the “ Salt Rheum,” being a kind of herpes, resembling the itch, but not contagious and more local.

Dr. Vaughan, of Delaware, communicates several extraordinary cures effected by him, among which is the case of “ a young man who  
 “ had fallen nearly fifteen feet on the edge of an  
 “ open ended hoghead, and received a considerable *contusion* in the umbilical region with  
 “ *tumefaction*.—I bled him three times (says Dr. Vaughan) to little purpose ; but after about  
 “ *two minutes* operation with the *Tractors*, he exclaimed in extacy, ‘ I am well—I am well—  
 “ my pain is gone !’—The pain, however, returned in a less degree, but in thirty or forty  
 “ minutes went off entirely, and he went to work  
 “ as usual.”

James Glover, Esq. an eminent pot-ash manufacturer, communicates a case of one of his men,



whose eye had been so badly scalded by boiling ley, that he had despaired of its ever recovering.

“ After the Tractors had been used a few minutes, (says Dr. Glover) he was able to open his eye, and with two applications only it was entirely free from pain and inflammation, and in a short time was perfectly well.”

The Rev. Dr. Morfe, the author of the American Geography, communicates a great many cases, among which he enumerates “ the painful effects of the sting of a wasp entirely removed.”

The Rev. Doctor Spring, communicated the case of a young gentleman, who for sixteen years had been so afflicted with the *rickets*, that he could not bend his body so as to reach the ground, entirely cured.

Mr. Edwards, the District Attorney of the State of Connecticut, communicates a cure effected in less than an hour on a lady who had been a *perfect cripple* in the *rheumatism* for fourteen weeks.

Mr.



Mr. Warner, one of the members of the Legislature from the city of New York, communicates a cure effected by him in less than an hour on a lady, who, from a species of nervous fever, “ was  
 “ in so feeble a state as not to be able to help  
 “ herself; had so violent a pain in the head and  
 “ eyes, that she could not bear the light; her  
 “ jaws so much contracted that she was unable to  
 “ open her mouth; and the root of her tongue  
 “ swelled to such a degree that she spoke with the  
 “ greatest difficulty.”

After giving upwards of fifty pages of experiments (from which perhaps we have not been very judicious in our extracts) successfully made in a variety of dreadful diseases, and reported by men of elevated situations, the author observes, that his father has not yet published the theory on which the effects stated in the experiments are produced; but (says he) “ We certainly ought  
 “ not to reject a practice which produces salutary effects, because we know not *how* it produces them. We do not lay aside the Mariner’s  
 “ Compass because we cannot assign a reason *why*  
 “ the needle is directed towards the poles!”

*Nisi utile est quod dulce, stulta est gloria.*

The Treatise, however, concludes with some extracts from a publication of Dr. Vaughan, entitled, “Observations on Animal Electricity,” in which that gentleman seems to insist that most topical complaints are produced *by an extra degree of electric fluid, nervous fluid, or some other influence, which is extracted by the application of Dr. Perkins’s Metallic Tractors*; and to this theory Mr. Perkins himself as he advances no other, may be said tacitly to assent.

We shall only add, that we think Mr. Perkins’s book deserves the attention of the inquisitive, the learned, and the humane, as well as that of the afflicted and the physician!—And although we have not been able to notice a tenth part of its contents, we think we have said enough to shew, that either a new and happy principle in nature is actually discovered, or that a more daring attempt at imposition on credulity was scarcely ever attempted.

To ascertain the truth, or detect the fallacy of Mr. Perkins’s pretensions, is therefore certainly worthy the efforts of the Philosophers of Europe!

“*Bristol Mercury*, 21st May, 1798.”

EXPERIMENTS.

## EXPERIMENTS.



THE preceding review of Mr. Perkins's pamphlet was inserted in the Bristol Mercury, with a view of exciting, in the minds of the medical men of Bristol, a spirit of inquiry into its pretensions, as a prelude to the proposal with which I have closed the pamphlet to which this is annexed.

Since that period, I have myself settled at Bristol, in the pursuit of the subject; and, besides the two extraordinary cases before stated, have met with many others in which I have successfully applied the Perkinian operation.

Among them some will be found important; and none, in my humble conception, unworthy of notice. Before I proceed to detail them, I shall observe that in the case partly stated at page 16, (which was the case of Mrs. Bowring, wife of Wm. Bowring, Esq. of Nevis,) (*a.*) a cure was perfected, and

(*a.*) I beg leave here to express the obligation I am under both to Mrs. and Mr. Bowring, not only for the polite manner

and the parts which appeared gangrenous, instead of sloughing off, returned to their healthy state; and she left No. 4, Dowry Parade, where she lodged when under my care, without any appearance of mortification, inflammation, or tumefaction remaining on her foot.

I shall now proceed with the cases.

## CHRONIC

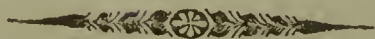
ner in which they complimented me for the cure, but also for the handsome way in which they have spoken of it, and for the many respectable patients I have had, and still have, through their recommendation.





# CHRONIC RHEUMATISM,

*Attended by Nervous Affections.*



## THE CASE OF

Mrs. ARBUTHNOT, widow of the late JOHN ARBUTHNOT, Esq. Inspector General of the Linen Manufacture in Ireland.

Mrs. Arbuthnot had, for six years, been afflicted with a Chronic Rheumatism, attended generally by a coldness and torpidity in all her limbs, and frequently with nervous affections of so very distressing a nature, that her life was considered in great danger. She had consulted several medical men in Ireland to little purpose ; and in the beginning of the present year, came over from that kingdom, and resorted to the waters of Bath. — From these she received no benefit, and removed to the Hotwells of Bristol, the waters of which were alike inefficacious.

Having the honor of her acquaintance, she stated her case to me, and I advised her to try the Tractors ; and, having instructed her how to use

them, left a set with her, that she might operate on herself, or get some female friend to do so, when the pains were most violent.

She found herself much better after a few operations, and, at the end of three weeks, she was so much recovered, that she returned me the instruments with the following polite note :—

“ SIR,

“ I return you the Tractors which you were so obliging as to lend me for the purpose of removing the Rheumatic pains with which I had been afflicted. I have applied them for several successive mornings, during which time the pains gradually abated, and are now entirely removed. I beg you will accept my thanks for the relief they have given me, and am, Sir,

“ Your obliged humble Servant,

“ ANN ELIZ. ARBUTHNOT.”

*Dowry-square, 3d July, 1798.*

Mrs. A. now purposed removing to the sea shore, with a view of strengthening her habit by sea-bathing ; and in order to prepare herself for  
this,

this, took the tepid Bath, which she intended gradually to let down to the temperature of the sea water.

This experiment unfortunately brought on her Rheumatic pains, and the nervous affections, as violently as ever. She had a second time recourse to the Tractors, and in the space of a fortnight, the pains were entirely removed, and her nervous complaint subsided.

The above is a true statement of my case.

ANN ELIZ. ARBUTHNOT.

### THE CASE OF

Mr. BIRD, of Sion Spring, or Upper Hotwell.

*To Mr. Charles C. Langworthy, Surgeon,  
Sion Row.*

“ SIR,

“ Observing in the London and Bristol papers, that some communications of remarkable cures, made by your Perkinian practice, are published, I beg leave to present you with the enclosed certificate of the benefit you administered to me; and if you think it may be of service to  
your

your practice, or benefit to others who may be similarly afflicted, to make it public, you have my permission to do so, as the best recompence I can offer for the service you rendered to me,

“ And am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble Servant,

“ THOMAS BIRD.”

*Upper Hotwell, Clifton,*

*August 1, 1798.*

### CASE.

I had been subject to violent rheumatic pains in my limbs for upwards of ten years, which attacked me at various periods of the year, and sometimes rendered me incapable of walking or using my limbs.

About two months ago, I had a return of it on a Friday, and by the Monday following, it was so severe in my right arm, from the shoulder to the wrist, that I could not move it without violent pain, and was obliged to absent myself from duty on that day, as a Member of the Bristol Volunteers. It still continued to increase, and on the next day, having heard of a new method of curing such complaints by Mr. Charles C. Langworthy,  
of



of Sion Row, I applied to him, and he operated on my arm. In a few minutes, I felt the pain gradually descend my arm from the shoulder, towards the hand, and in less than a quarter of an hour I could lift my hand to my head, and move my arm in all directions with perfect ease. A slight pain remained in my wrist for a few hours, which however gradually went off, and I have felt no return since.

The pains in general used to last me for several weeks, and I am certain that their progress was stopped and removed by Mr. Langworthy's operation. The operation was performed in the Bar of my Public Rooms, and the Honorable Mr. Knox, and several other gentlemen who were passing through to my Reading Room, stopped and witnessed it.

THOMAS BIRD.

*Upper Hotwell, Clifton,*

*August 1, 1798.*

ACUTE

## ACUTE RHEUMATISM.



Mr. WHEELER, the Book-keeper at the Rummer Tavern, had been afflicted with a violent Acute Rheumatism, for six weeks, which confined him to his bed;—he had tried various applications without effect.

I heard of his case, and thinking it might offer a fair experiment for the Tractors, I mentioned it to Doctor O'Conel, of Bath, and requested him to accompany me to his house. Being desirous to witness an operation, he politely complied with my request. We found Mr. Wheeler in very violent pain in all his limbs, and incapable of moving his right arm to his head, or taking up the cup in which his wife used to administer to him his usual drink. After a short conversation he consented that I should try the Tractors on his right shoulder and arm, which I did by drawing them over the deltoid muscle, down his arm in the course of the nerve, to the end of his fingers, which at that time were very much tumified, but not inflamed. At the expiration of fifteen minutes

minutes he declared that the pains were entirely removed; and to his great astonishment, as well as to that of his wife, and Dr. O'Conel, he could move his arm in every direction, and taking up the cup, he exclaimed, "Look, look, I can lift it to my mouth with perfect ease." He had also violent pains in his right thigh, on which I operated about the same time as on his arm, when he said that he was entirely free from pain, and expressed a desire to walk, which he did with great ease.

The next day I called on him again, when I found he had slept well, which he had not done from the time he was first taken ill, to the time I saw him. The pains had not returned in his right arm, nor right thigh, but his left thigh had been for two hours so painful, that he was incapable of moving it in the least degree. I operated on it for twenty minutes, when the pain was entirely removed, and he walked about the room nearly a quarter of an hour with perfect ease.

The next day he told me he was much better, but the pains had not entirely left him. I ope-

E

rated

rated on all his limbs, and left him quite easy. Two days after, I called again to see him, when I was informed by his wife, that he was gone out, that he was free from pain, that his appetite was good, that he rested well at night, and had no other complaint than debility. When I had done with him, he washed himself with Linimentum Saponis, commonly called Opodeldoc.

He has since gained strength and flesh very rapidly, and is now quite well, and follows his usual occupation of book-keeper, at the Rummer Tavern.

The above is a true statement of my case.

THOMAS WHEELER.

*July 26th, 1798.*





## THE CASE OF

Mr. COWARD, Book-keeper at the Bush, Bristol.

*To Mr. Charles C. Langworthy, Surgeon,  
Sion Row.*

“ SIR,

“ The following is a statement of my case.

“ I was attacked with an Inflammatory Rheumatism in my foot, which lasted three or four days, and gave me much pain; when a gentleman came in from Bath in one of the stages, and, perceiving my leg and foot wrapt up in flannel, asked me what was the matter with it. I told him I had much inflammation, swelling, and pain, in my foot, and he desired me to let him try if he could not cure me with Dr. Perkins's Tractors. I took off my flannel and he operated on my foot for about a quarter of an hour, when a perspiration came on, over my whole body, and I felt quite easy. The inflammation disappeared, and the second day I put on my stocking and shoe, and have felt no return of pain since.

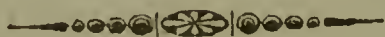
This was in May last,—and I write this the 23d day of July, 1798.

“ W. COWARD.”

E 2

INFLAMMATORY

## INFLAMMATORY SORE THROAT.



## THE CASE OF

Mrs. NARES. (*a.*)

Mrs. Nares had for three or four days suffered considerably from an Inflammatory Sore Throat, which made it very difficult for her to swallow. By using the Tractors once, for about a quarter of an hour, she was perfectly cured, and the next day she sent me the following note :

“ SIR,

“ I am very much obliged for the use of the Tractors. I drew them down my neck as you directed on going to bed, slept well, and the soreness of my throat, which was yesterday so troublesome, is now entirely removed.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ ANNE NARES.”

A SCALD.

(*a.*) This Lady is the widow of the late George Nares, Captain in the 70th Regiment, who was the son of the late Judge Nares, and brother of the Rev. Edward Nares, who married Lady Charlotte Spencer, daughter of the Duke of Marlborough.

## A S C A L D.



Mrs. POTTER, widow of the late Major Potter, accidentally threw over one of her hands a quantity of boiling jelly. The gentleman who assists me, happened to enter her house a few minutes afterwards, and having heard of the accident, begged permission to apply the Tractors. The hand was very much inflamed, and gave extreme pain, but vesication, in the short period which intervened between the accident and the application, had not time to take place. After about ten minutes use of the Tractors, the pain and inflammation began to abate, and in less than half an hour both were entirely removed. (*a.*)

The above is a true statement,

ANN POTTER.

*Dowry-square, August 7, 1798.*

E 3

A CASE

(*a.*) The effects of negative Electricity on a burn or scald are similar to those of the Perkinean operation. This circumstance was also discovered in America, and is published in the second volume of the Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, p. 440; and as I am not aware

## A CASE OF ATONIC OR NERVOUS GOUT.

—•—

ELIZABETH PASCALL, a poor woman about 37 years of age, was, fourteen years ago, afflicted with frequent pains in her stomach, attended by  
flatulency,

aware that the fact is very generally known, I shall transcribe the original communication of Mr. Vinall, the discoverer.

*Experiments in Electricity, by Mr. John Vinall.*

“ Boston, May 23, 1790.

“ SIR,

“ In making use of my large Electrical Machine which is constructed with both a positive, and a negative conductor, the air being humid, and consequently unfavorable for electrical experiments, I made use of a small iron pan with some coals under the machine, in order to qualify the surrounding atmosphere so as to answer my purpose. By accident I burned my thumb with the pan, so much as to cause me great pain. Knowing that in some instances I had been relieved of slight burns, by holding the part affected to a common fire, I held my thumb at a small distance from the *negative* conductor, put the machine in motion, and to my surprise, found that in a few seconds of time, the effects of the burn were destroyed; my thumb perfectly at ease; and no blister arose as would have been the case, if I had not made use of Electricity. I met with a similar instance not long after: I made use of the same remedy, and received the same benefit.

“ A few



flatulency, eructations, and vomitings. She continued so about six years, when the pains became continual, the eructations and vomitings more frequent; a loss of appetite, restlessness, want of sleep, and fever ensued, and violent pains with tumefaction came on in her knees and feet, unattended by active inflammation.

E 4

In

“ A few weeks after this discovery, one of my daughters scalded her arm, from her wrist to her elbow, with the steam of a tea-kettle, which produced a great inflammation upon the part, attended with much pain, and it is highly probable a blister would have succeeded. I desired her to hold her arm to the *negative* conductor; and in a few minutes the pain ceased, the redness subsided, and her arm was perfectly cured.

I never read, or heard of an experiment of this kind being made in Electricity; therefore, I esteemed it my duty to lay it before the Academy of Arts and Sciences, that gentlemen might be induced to make experiments from this hint, which may be of great service to mankind, and an improvement in *Medical Electricity*.

“ I have the honor to be, with sentiments of esteem,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient humble servant,

“ JOHN VINALL.

“ *Hon. James Bowdoin, Esq. President  
of the American Academy of Arts and  
Sciences.*”

In this state she was confined in her lodgings *eight months* without medical aid; at which period, the pains in her stomach and lower extremities becoming more violent, she got admitted into St. Peter's Hospital, and was placed under the care of Mr. Griffiths, the Apothecary.

Under the attention of this gentleman her fever soon abated, the pains became less and less irksome, and, at the end of three months, she was discharged, free from pain, but much debilitated.

The pains in her stomach came on again soon afterwards, with sickness and eructations as before. She however labored on, till about eight months ago, when undergoing some considerable fatigue, the pains in her stomach and vomitings became so violent as again to confine her.

She applied to a charitable Dispensary and procured medicine which gave her some relief, and she remained better about a fortnight, when the pains in her stomach returned more violently than before, and new pains came on in her shoulders, arms, and hands, her back, hips, knees, legs, and feet.

The

The volatile Tincture of Guaiacum was administered to her for some time, but without giving her any relief; and in this situation she continued nearly six months, viz. until about eight weeks ago, when she was admitted into St. Peter's Hospital, and placed again under the care of Mr. Griffiths, as Apothecary, and Mr. Bowles, as Surgeon.

At this time, she had violent pains in every part of her extremities, a prodigious tumefaction in the region of her stomach, and high fever. After being under the care of these gentlemen above five weeks, the swelling in her stomach in some degree abated, and the pains which were before so generally diffused, settled in her shoulders, wrists, and fingers, and in her knees, attended with much tumefaction, without active inflammation.

When the preceding pamphlet was drawn up, Dr. Beddoes was informed of the desire I had of submitting the Perkinsonian practice to the investigation of the medical gentlemen of Bristol, by actual experiment made under their own eyes; and

and that I wished to get admission into some of the hospitals for that purpose. With that ardent desire for ascertaining the truth of all pretensions to utility, by which he has long been so eminently distinguished, he made inquiries among the surgeons of his acquaintance for some fit subject, and soon after informed me, that Mr. Bowles, one of the surgeons of St. Peter's Hospital, had at that time under his care, a woman whose case might offer a fair subject of experiment, and requested that I would meet him and Mr. Bowles there, on the 20th of last month. I did so; and the case of this woman was the one on which Mr. Bowles had fixed for the experiment.

At this time both her knees were much tumified, and her right knee was nearly motionless.

Her wrists, hands, and fingers, were also very much swollen, and so perfectly stiffened, that she could make but little use of them. But no active inflammation appeared on any part of her body. Her stomach was also much swollen.

She



She was at this period in very little pain, but said that she had been in violent pain in the course of the day, in her shoulders, arms, hands, and knees.

As she was at this period without any considerable pain, I chose her right knee on which to commence the operation, as the one most swollen and least capable of motion.

On this knee I operated twenty minutes, at the end of which period, she said she felt a considerable degree of heat in it.

I should have continued the operation longer, but, as I had some appointments to keep, I was content for the present, on finding that the operation had taken *an effect*. (a.)

21 ft.

(a.) In the enumeration of diseases made by Mr. Perkins (as appears by the Review, page 30) he says that the Tractors had been found useful in "*Some gouty affections*." Upon inquiry, I understand that his Father did not find them succeed so well in nervous as inflammatory gout. By the statement of this case however, it will seem to appear, that although their operation is *slow*, in comparison with others, yet it is much more rapidly efficacious than any medicine at present known.

21st. The pains which usually afflicted her at night, had in the last, been very inconsiderable, and she had slept well during the greater part of it; which she had not done before, from the time her present illness commenced: at this time however, she had much pain in her shoulders.

After about twenty minutes operation on her right shoulder, the pain was entirely removed; but it remained in her left. I operated on that also about the same time, and she felt perfectly free from pain. I operated on her hands, fingers, knees and legs, in all about an hour, when she said she had a sensation in all the parts on which I had operated, resembling that which is occasioned by the sting of nettles.

22d. She had remained easy after the last operation, during the remainder of the day and night, had slept well, and had but little fever. Slight pains in her shoulders and knees, had however, now returned.

I operated on her shoulders, hands, knees, and feet, about an hour, when she informed me that she was free from pain.

23d.

23d. She had rested well all night, and had been free from pain in her limbs, but had slight pains in her stomach in the morning when she awoke, which however, soon went off.

I operated on her an hour, and left her free from pain and fever.

24th. The pains had not returned in the least degree in her stomach, or any of her limbs. The swelling of her stomach subsided; her fever was much abated; her appetite began to return; she could walk with more ease; and could move her right knee with greater facility than she had been able to do from the time she was first taken ill; and had that morning cut her bread for breakfast, which she had not been able to do before for many months. I operated on all her limbs for one hour.

25th. I found the pains had returned in a slight degree in her knees, but it had not prevented her from sleeping. Having now a gentleman with me, who assists me in my practice, I determined on our both operating on her at the same time.

After

After applying the Tractors to her left knee for about a quarter of an hour, she informed me that she was easy in that knee. We then applied our instruments to the other, and in about twenty minutes she said she felt a general warmth all over her body. We then operated on her hands, which were a little swollen, but not painful or inflamed.

26th. The warmth of which she spoke yesterday, was succeeded by a tingling sensation, similar to that produced by stopping an artery, (a sensation with which most persons must be acquainted) by letting the arm hang over the back of a chair, laying the legs across each other, or similar other occurrences ; which was not confined to the parts alone, on which I had operated, but was general in every part of her body, and had kept her awake during the major part of the night. She had had no return of pain.

27th. She had rested well ; her appetite increased ; she had gained strength ; but had slight pains in her shoulders and knees. By operating one hour on all her limbs, she was greatly relieved.

28th.



28th. She had rested perfectly well; her appetite was so good, that she said she could eat all day long; had no fever, and was in every respect better; she could walk without pain, and had the use of her hands.

29th. The pains had returned in a slight degree in her knees and hands, but her shoulders remained perfectly free from pain; she had rested well, and was free from fever. I operated on her knees and hands about one hour and left her easy.

30th. The pain had returned but in a very slight degree, in her knees, but her hands were perfectly easy, and less swollen. I repeated the operation for the space of an hour.

31st. She had slept well all night, and had been free from pain until nine this morning, when her spirits became depressed, and much pain came on in her right knee, but she had no fever. Her left knee and hands were free from pain, and her stomach perfectly well. A repetition of the operation on her right knee soon gave her relief, and I left her perfectly easy.

Her

Her spirits still remained depressed, and she wept during the time I was with her. She gave some hints that her stomach wanted some cordials, and that her appetite wanted gratification.

[When this poor woman was put under my care, all medicine was discontinued by the medical gentlemen of the Hospital, in order that the experiment might be fairly made. A circumstance to which, considering the alleged effects of the Perkinsonian operation, I could not object.

I must however remark, that considering the proximate cause of this woman's disease, to be debility and deficiency of vital energy, were she entirely under my care, I should now order some cordial stimulants, nutritious animal food (which the return of her appetite seems to infer her stomach may be able to digest) wine, air, and exercise.

Of which restorers and supporters of the vital powers, she is now unfortunately deprived.]

*August 1st.* I had so many engagements to day, that it was out of my power to visit the Hospital.

2d.

2d. She had slept well during the two last nights, had been *perfectly* easy ever since I operated on her last. She was free from fever, and had an appetite which she could not gratify.

Her hands had gained strength, and she could walk without the least uneasiness.

3d. She continued free from fever and pain, with a good appetite.

4th. I did not see her.

5th. She had no return of fever or pain, but still debilitated and wanting nutrition.

N. B. I mentioned this to Mr. Bowles, who with great candor and humanity, said he would order her good animal food and some ale every day.

6th. About eleven or twelve o'clock last night, some pains came on in her elbow, but no fever or loss of appetite. The pains were removed by about twenty minutes operation.

F

7th.

7th. No return of fever or pain—appetite good.

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Thus stands the case of this woman.

How it may terminate I know not; all I can say is, that I have faithfully detailed it as far as it goes, and the reader can form his own conjectures on the probable result.

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The readiness with which Mrs. Arbuthnot, Mrs. Nares, and Mrs. Potter, gave me permission to publish their cases, demands my warmest acknowledgments.

Publicly to lead the way in support of a science so novel, interesting, and curious, by their testimony and their names, bespeaks not only all the tenderness of philanthropy, but an independence and nobleness of mind rarely to be met with.

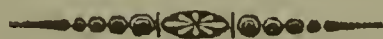
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Mr. Perkins from (what in my humble conception is an over-strained) delicacy, declines to publish many interesting cases in which he has succeeded in giving relief, where all medical aid  
had



had failed; but he has favored me with the following communications from persons of high respectability, with permission to add them to my own.

NERVOUS FEVER,  
RHEUMATISM,  
AND  
INFLAMMATORY GOUT.



*Copy of the Report of the Rev. WARING WILLET,  
A. M. Domestic Chaplain to the Right Hon. the  
Earl of Dunmore, Rector of the parishes of Liston  
and Stanford le Hope, in the county of Essex, and  
Minor Canon of St. Peter, Westminster; and  
Nehemiah Spicer, Esq. Overseer of the Infirmary  
or Poor-house, in the parish of St. Pancras,  
Middlesex.*

*Delancey-place, Hampstead-road,  
May 17, 1798.*

BEING desirous of obtaining ocular proof of the efficacy of Mr. Perkins's Tractors, we some time since requested him to accompany us and some other gentlemen, for that purpose, to the Poor-house of the parish of St. Pancras, where

were a number of persons afflicted with various diseases. The Tractors were applied in our presence with success upon a soldier who had the gout in both his feet. The severe pain and inflammation were removed in a few minutes. Among others who found relief, the case of Mrs. Sanfester, who had been confined in this Poor-house with the rheumatism for several months, deserves particular notice. For some weeks previous to the application of the Tractors, she had not been able, in consequence of debility occasioned by the extreme pain in her limbs, to bear her weight on her feet. Her arms were so affected that she could not raise them sufficiently high to feed herself, the nurse being obliged to assist her in putting her food to her mouth. The knee and elbow joints were much tumified and inflamed, and from her extremely emaciated state it was believed she could not long survive. In this helpless and distressing situation Mr. Perkins applied the Tractors to her right arm, which then appeared to be in most pain, and in about ten minutes the pains in that arm were wholly removed, and immediately she raised it over her head, and could move it with perfect ease in any direction. As the experiment was only performed

formed on one arm, and the complaint was rather a general one, extending to the legs as well as to the other arm, the pain in about 24 hours returned. The Tractors being then purchased by the second of the under-mentioned, he visited the Poor-house and applied them himself to her knees and arms. After four or five daily applications she so far recovered as to be enabled to walk down stairs, and into the adjoining yard. She continued gaining strength, and is now restored to health, and discharged from the house as cured. The above-mentioned under-named has used his Tractors successfully in other cases since he possessed them. Among these a person of his own family, who has been subject to the rheumatism for years, had a few weeks since a severe attack in the ankle and foot. The parts were much swelled, inflamed, and in extreme pain, so that the foot could not be placed on the floor. The Tractors were used several times during the day, and the pain and inflammation were wholly removed, so that the person could walk with ease. In the ordinary attacks of this disease it has usually continued several days.

(Signed)

WARING WILLET, A. M.  
NEHEMIAH SPICER.

*Extract from the Minutes of William Brian, Preparer and Administerer of Medicinal Gases, at his Pneumatic Dispensary, Black Friars Road.*

“ 7th Month, 12th Day, 1798.

“ On the 27th of the 5th month, a patient was recommended to me, who for six months had been afflicted with a very obstinate complaint in the Maxilla Inferior, or Lower Jaw. So great was the stricture on the masseter muscle, that she had not been able during that time to open her mouth, or take in any food of any kind, excepting liquids, in consequence of which, she was very much debilitated. She could with great difficulty just put her thumb nail between her teeth, she complained of great weakness, sick, head ach very frequent, hands and feet always cold, particularly the latter, never any perspiration in them, very heavy and sleepy, especially in an afternoon. She had been under the care of several of the faculty, and taken great quantities of medicine without relief. A few days before this, a gentleman called to shew me Mr. Perkins's pamphlet on the “ INFLUENCE OF METALLIC Tractors on the HUMAN BODY,” in which I  
observed



observed many cases asserted to be cured by the Tractors. The gentleman had purchased a set of them, and when he called again, left them with me. I was desirous of proving them, and thought this a fair case. I used them as directed for ten minutes, when to my surprise, she opened her mouth so as to be able to put in her thumb flat ways. I continued their application another ten minutes, when she could open her mouth so far as to put in the first joint of her thumb length ways.

With a view of stimulating her system, which from the long continuance of her complaint, was much debilitated, I administered the oxygen gas or vital air, which she found gave her strength and spirits. Next day there was much pain remaining in the lower jaw and in the place of the stricture, with a little swelling, which on using the Tractors were both removed. On the following day her mouth was quite well. The air had thrown out a great number of pustules all over her, and particularly on her face. Her head ach ceased, her feet became warm, with a gentle perspiration, and her sleepiness was entirely removed. I continued giving her the vital air

until the 30th. She called about a fortnight after, and said she enjoyed her health better than she had done for many years.

“ WILLIAM BRIAN.”



*Communications from Mr. David Ogilvy, Jun.  
Proprietor of the London and Westminster Circu-  
lating Library.*

“ *London, August, 2, 1798.*

“ SIR,

“ Agreeably to my promise, when I purchased a set of your Tractors, I shall do myself the pleasure of communicating to you the result of my experiments. The curiosity naturally excited by a remedy so novel, and as one might infer from your late publication, so interesting to humanity, has led me to place myself as much as possible, in the way of procuring proper subjects for the Tractors, and of noting with attention their effects; that I might thereby have a fair opportunity of convincing myself of the truth or fallacy of the doctrine from my own experience. The ultimate success of these trials, I take great pleasure in declaring, has exceeded my expectations.

The

The first experiment I made with the Tractors, was on my mother, for a very violent pain in the head, and the case proved suitable for the metallic influence. It may be proper to observe, that this pain was the remains of a gouty complaint, with which she had been troubled for several years. By the advice of her physician she had recourse to the Bath Waters, about three years since; soon after her return, the disease, which before at times, affected her whole body, became stationary in her head. I can only say, that upon applying the Tractors agreeable to your directions, when she was in violent pain, her head ach which had afflicted her very severely and almost incessantly for upwards of two years, was in about ten minutes completely relieved. The application has been once repeated, and however extraordinary the fact, she has never experienced the pain since. It is now about four months since the application.

I have lately had occasion to use them in a case of a bruise, which afforded me much satisfaction. My infant child by accident fell against the edge of a chair, and received a very severe blow in the forehead. The child appearing in great pain, I  
 applied



applied the Tractors as soon as possible, before the part had swelled to the extent that it doubtless would, if left to itself: She very soon stopped crying, and the swelling and inflammation in a few minutes were hardly perceptible, and nothing remained of the wound but a small scar.

I have twice had occasion to use the Tractors on myself, once for a swelling in the face accompanied with pain, and once for the bite of a gnat. My face, in consequence of a cold, a short time since, became very much swelled and in considerable pain; one single experiment removed the pain and swelling. The bite from a gnat was in two places, the one above, and the other just below the lid of one of my eyes; the parts became very soon so much swelled, as to completely close the eye, and on using the Tractors a few minutes the pain was removed, and the swelling subsided soon after.

I have applied the Tractors with equal success in many other cases, once for a Rheumatic gout; for common head aches; but it would be tedious to detail every case, and indeed they do not all now occur to my mind.

You



You will not infer from the above statement that I have invariably succeeded in all my experiments, probably from not paying sufficient attention to the directions accompanying the Tractors, which point out the diseases subject to the metallic influence. I have often, no doubt, applied them improperly, and here give me leave to observe, that you ought to spare no pains in instructing your purchasers in using the Tractors, as well as to discriminate between the disease subject to their influence, and those that are not, otherwise this practice, like every other, when injudiciously used, may lose credit unjustly. Wishing you every success in your practice, which the discovery undoubted ~~must~~ *merits*

“ I remain, Sir,

“ Your most obedient Servant,

“ DAVID OGILVY, Jun.”



## COPY OF A LETTER

FROM

Mr. E. S. LANGWORTHY,  
*SURGEON.*

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*Brixham, Devonshire.*

MY DEAR BROTHER,

THE cases that I have met with have been but few, but in those few they have been attended, in every instance, with considerable benefit. The first case in which I have tried them I will give you some account of—A boy about 14 years of age about a year and a half ago was attacked with a fever of the typhus kind, which in a few weeks terminated in a confirmed Sciatica: stimulants were applied to the part affected; sea-bathing was also had recourse to, and a variety of medicines given internally. But all these means proving unsuccessful, he was admitted into the Exeter Hospital, where he remained for some time, but received no benefit. Since he was dismissed from the Hospital he has continued to bathe in the sea, by which his general health has been somewhat mended,

mended, but the lameness continued nearly the same. He is by trade a thatcher, and his situation in life compelled him to pursue it in the best manner he could. At this time his method of getting his reed upon the house or stack which he had to thatch, was, by dividing the bundles into several parts, which he placed on a ladder, one at a time, just high enough to be able to support it with his head, while he held fast by the ladder with both hands in order to bring up his leg, and this was the only way that he could ascend. I ought to tell you that the diseased limb is nearly an inch and a half shorter than the corresponding one, and considerably smaller; and that he was subject to violent pains on every change of weather. During the first four or five days he perceived no material benefit from the tractors, more than that they produced a pretty great degree of heat on the skin, which gave him a sense of feeling in the limb more than he had got before: at the end of ten days or a fortnight he was considerably better, and he is, at the time of my writing this to you, (which is three weeks from the commencement of the application) so much recovered

recovered that he now carries his reed in whole bundles upon the house, holding them with one hand while he supports himself up the ladder with the other. Before the application of the Tractors he could not reach the ground with his hand without throwing the diseased limb behind him, but he can now stoop so as to take up any thing upon a level with his feet, and buckle both his shoes. I have operated upon him twice a day when I have had an opportunity, but he often goes into the country too early for me in the morning, and is frequently too late at night, so that he has not given the instruments so fair a trial as he ought. He has had no return of the pain, even in the smallest degree, since the instruments were first applied.

The next case is of a woman of this place, who had laboured under a Quinsy for several days, and at length the inflammation and swelling were so great that she could not swallow any thing even in a fluid state. I applied the instruments, and in less than five minutes she exclaimed with great joy that she was better, and that she could swallow her spittle, which she had not been able to do for several



several days before: I continued the application about ten minutes longer, when a profuse perspiration broke out all over her face and neck, attended with a considerable efflorescence on the skin in the fore part of her neck; as soon as I had finished the application she sat down and made a hearty breakfast. The next morning the pain returned in a slight degree, but was soon removed by a little warm tea, nor had I any occasion to apply the tractors a second time.

\* The next was a case which happened about ten days since to my father-in-law, Mr. Hoyles, surgeon of Dartmouth, to whom I had lent the tractors to apply to his inflamed hand:—About three o'clock the following morning he was called up to a young woman in the town, who was labouring under a violent pain in her side, attended with difficulty of breathing; she had been bled for the same complaint some days prior to this attack, with some benefit, but the complaint had now returned with redoubled violence. Having heard me say that the tractors (which he had then in his pocket) had been found serviceable in similar cases, he sat down by the bed-side of his patient, (with, I believe,

lieve, but little expectations of finding any good effects from their application) and applied them as I had directed him, when, to his great astonishment, as well as that of his patient, she was in five minutes much easier, and in ten minutes more she was perfectly relieved, and has remained well ever since.

Another case occurred to me on Sunday last:— A woman had been afflicted with a violent rheumatic pain in her head and face, for six weeks. The first application procured her a good night's rest, (which she had not experienced during the whole of her illness before) and a second application removed the complaint entirely. In neither of the above cases has any kind of medicine been administered.

Should you think these cases, or either of them, worth inserting in your pamphlet, you are at liberty to make what use of them you may think proper.

I am, my dear brother,

Your's affectionately,

ELFORD SPARKE LANGWORTHY.



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## ERRATA.

The Reader will please to correct with his Pen, the following Errors of the Press.

Page 7. line 4. in Note, dele *and*.—Page 17. the last paragraph of the notes should have been inserted between the first and second.—Page 21. line 13. after *of*, read *electric*.—Page 32. line 23. before *President*, read *late*.—Page 38. line 4. for *Dr.* read *Mr.*—Page 62. line 14. for *similar other*, read *other similar*.